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APR 13 1998

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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

April 2nd, 1998

Re: Petition presented by The Community Radio Coalition

Dear Gentlemen/Madams;

I would like to add my comments supporting the petition by the Community Radio Coalition's request to amend Section 73, Subpart B to authorize Low Power FM (LPFM) service in both the commercial and non commercial portions of the FM band.

As a former broadcaster, having spent 16 years in commercial and non commercial radio with a background in engineering as well as ownership, I have watched as the emphasis of the medium has shifted from local origination and control to consolidation, homogenization and conglomeration. Concurrent with this trend we have also seen the allotted spectrum fill with full power signals in all but the most remote areas. The scarcity of available spectrum for new facilities has created a sharp increase in the pricing for these licenses and have left many local broadcasters and citizens of average means shut out of this medium.

Although there is little room left for full power facilities, there are remnants of spectrum left, where one could fit a fifty or one hundred watt signal that would serve a community without causing interference. In many cases power levels as little as one watt could sufficiently serve a neighborhood or portion of a community. The commission needs only to look to the explosive growth (and occasional abuse) of repeaters and translators to validate the fact that these smaller signals can coexist with the larger signals.

It is my opinion that the Community Radio Coalition's petition provides a rational solution for the growing problem of access to the airwaves without causing undue interference or disruption to existing service.

Respectfully,
James A. Ganley

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